

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001-2728

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

17 April 1997

AM 10:00 CONVENE, 441 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of Minutes:

20 March 1997

B. Dates of next meetings:

22 May 1997

19 June 1997

C. Retirement of Assistant Secretary

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. Washington Convention Center Authority

CFA 17/April/97-1, New Convention Center. Mount Vernon Square between 7th and 9th streets and Mount Vernon Square Place and N Street. Development of site plan, massing and elevation studies. (Previous: CFA 20/March/97-1.)

B. National Park Service, National Capital Region

CFA 17/April/97-2, The Mall, between 3rd and 14th streets, and Jefferson Place and Madison Place. Design for resurfacing the walks. Design development. (Previous: CFA 25/July/96-2.)

C. Smithsonian Institution

CFA 17/April/97-3, National Museum of American Art and National Portrait Gallery (Old Patent office Building), between F and G streets, and 7th and 9th streets. Repair of north sidewalks and vehicle ramp, installation of gates. Design.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 17 April 1997

D. Department of the Navy, Chesapeake Division

CFA 17/April/97-4, Naval Station, Bolling
Anacostia Tract. Complex for Public Works Shops
and Logistics Support. Conceptual.

E. District of Columbia Department of
Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

Appendix I.

2. Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 97-58, 3245 O Street, N.W. Design
for new residence. Conceptual.

b. Appendix II.

SHIPSTEAD-LUCE SUBMISSIONS

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
S.L. 97-28	748 Jackson Place, N.W.	Signs -
HPA. 97-115	National Trust for Historic Preservation Decatur House	conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept design for two proposed signs for the Decatur House Museum as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 16 April 1997. Submit detailed drawings and site plan with permit application for review by Commission when ready.

S.L. 97-37	2801 Chesterfield Place, N.W. Peter Halle and Carolyn Lamm Residence	Regrading of rear yard - conceptual
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ACTION: No objection to concept of regrading the rear yard, providing tree wells, and adding infill soil to provide a gradual slope which would facilitate completion of previously proposed work, provided that no trees are effected and that drainage from the site does not have a negative impact on Rock Creek Park. Provide studies to the National Park Service for comment. Submit working drawings including structural details of tree wells and landscape plan with permit application for review by the Commission when ready.

S.L. 97-39	229-231 Pennsylvania Ave., SE	Sidewalk cafe
HPA. 97-136	J.C. Associates	- permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed sidewalk cafe, including canvas umbrellas, wood chairs, tables and fences as shown in supplemental information received and dated 14 April 1997. Note: the presence of street vendors in the same area creates an unfavorable situation that the Public Space Division should consider. Submit permit application for alternative sign reading "Capitol Lounge" to replace existing internally-illuminated box sign which has not been reviewed or approved by the Commission.

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
S.L. 97-40	1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Au Bon Pain	Sidewalk cafe - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for existing sidewalk cafe, provided lettering reading "Au Bon Pain" is removed from valance of canvas umbrellas. Recommend table and chairs between planters be omitted since they interfere with pedestrian traffic. Neon sign on transom over entrance door should be either installed 18 inches behind glass or removed.

S.L. 97-42	2029 Park Road, N.W.	Alterations
HPA. 97-166	Curtis Fish Residence	to rear - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations to rear window opening for french doors.

S.L. 97-43	4155 Linnean Avenue, N.W. Marjorie Merriweather Post Foundation of D.C. Hillwood Museum	Hillside stabilization - permit
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ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed installation of storm pipe and stabilization of hillside, provided work is approved by and coordinated with National Park Service. Recommend installation of landscape material to prevent future soil erosion into Rock Creek Park.

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
S.L. 97-44	51 Louisiana Avenue, N.W. Acacia Building	Alterations - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept design of proposed alterations to the Acacia Building, including alterations to First Street entrance for new handicapped access ramp, alterations to window openings, roof top terrace and railing, new loading dock, connecting corridor, pergola and security gates off alley. Submit working drawings with permit application, material samples and landscape plan for review by the Commission when ready. NOTE: The Commission regrets the need to approve the addition of an electrician's door adjacent to the main entrance on First Street as required by the Fire Marshall.

OLD GEORGETOWN SUBMISSIONS

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 97-33	3077 M Street, N.W.	Alterations and
HPA. 97-82	3067 M Street. LLC	rear addition -
	Retail/commercial	- conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept design for proposed alterations to the two adjacent historic street fronts along M Street, and alterations to facade along 31st Street as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 9 April 1997. Submit working drawings with permit application for review by the Commission when ready.

O.G. 97-47	1300 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.	Alterations
HPA. 97-111	Franklin National Bank	for new ATM
		- permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed new ATM installation on Wisconsin Avenue as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 9 April 1997, which indicate a smaller unit to fit within existing bricked-in door opening. Note is made that the existing N Street facade will remain unchanged.

O.G. 97-50	3115 O Street, N.W.	One story
HPA. 97-125	Lloyd Cutler	rear addition
	Residence	- permit

ACTION: Returned without Action. Case withdrawn by written request of applicant.

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 97-52	3100 P Street, N.W.	Rear addition
HPA. 97-135	Karen and Ethan Leder	to 2nd floor
	Residence	- permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed frame addition to second floor. Materials and detailing will match existing construction.

O.G. 97-53	2900 M Street, N.W.	New iron fence
HPA. 97-138	1130 A & B 29th Street, N.W.	and gates
	Office and residential	- permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for installation of proposed antique cast and wrought iron fencing and gates.

O.G. 97-55	1248 30th Street, N.W.	Repair and
HPA. 97-141	Arnold Sagalyn	reconstruction
	Residence	of brick
		garden wall
		- permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed repair and maintenance work on existing brick garden wall which is in poor condition. Portion of wall that is to be reconstructed will occupy the same position and retain the original configuration of the current wall, using lime mortar joints and salvaged brick for the facing material.

O.G. 97-56	1683 34th Street, N.W.	Rear addition
HPA. 97-142	Sherry and Tom Johnson	- permit
	Residence	

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed addition of two story glass and metal structure to infill existing rear "L" currently occupied by open porches. Approved work does not extend to any other part of residence. Working drawings for addition conform to approved concept design. See previous Action (O.G. 97-11).

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 97-57 HPA. 97-143	1344 30th Street, N.W. Tina Alster Residence	Remove solarium for roof terrace restoration - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for the removal of a second floor solarium which replaced an existing second floor terrace in 1986. Terrace will include iron railings. Portions of the proposed work that are not visible from public space are referred to the Historic Preservation Review Board for review.

O.G. 97-60 HPA. 97-146	1545 35th Street, N.W. Helen and Raymond Dubois Residence	Partial enclosure of rear second floor porch - conceptual
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ACTION: No objection to concept design for proposed partial enclosure of second floor rear porch. Materials and detailing will match existing. Submit working drawings with permit application for review by the Commission when ready.

O.G. 97-61 HPA. 97-147	2708 O Street, N.W. Nixon Residence	Alterations to front porch - conceptual
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ACTION: No objection to concept design for proposed alterations to the existing front porch and entrance gates. Submit working drawings with permit application for review by the Commission when ready.

O.G. 97-62 HPA. 97-148	3121 South Street, N.W. Guggenheim Productions	Entrance marquee - conceptual
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ACTION: No objection to concept design for proposed metal and glass entrance marquee or to new light fixtures. Submit working drawings with permit application for review by the Commission when ready.

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 97-63	1414-1416 35th Street, N.W.	Alterations to
HPA. 97-149	Hirschhofer and Valtin	front yard and
	Residences	new retaining
		walls - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations to the existing front yards of these two residences. Alterations include configuration for single stair access, enlargement of areaway of 1414, installation of brick retaining walls at the sidewalk and landscaping as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 24 March 1997.

O.G. 97-64	1315 28th Street, N.W.	Alterations
HPA. 97-151	Wally and March Kornack	to front
	Residence	- permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations to front of residence, including new entranceway configuration with side lantern, replacement of existing garage door with double-hung window with simulated muntins, and removal of corresponding curb cut. New infill brick and detailing will match existing conditions. Working drawings conform to approved concept design. See previous Action (O.G. 97-32).

O.G. 97-66	1419-25 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.	Restoration of
HPA. 97-126	Marian Wells	door opening
	Little Caledonia	- permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed restoration of door within existing/original surround.

17 April 1997

APPENDIX II

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 97-69	1524 35th Street, N.W.	Site work
HPA. 97-180	Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School	- permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed work limited to installation of underground storm water retention system in coordination with future parking lot or to temporary surface asphalt paving. Submit working drawings and landscape plan for parking lot with permit application for review by the Commission when ready.

STATUS REPORT

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 97-19 HPA. 97-50	2715 M Street, N.W. Embassy of Uruguay	Flagpole, sign and plaque - conceptual
STATUS: On HOLD for future Old Georgetown Board meeting for further discussion with applicant.		
O.G. 97-44 HPA. 97-102	2733 P Street, N.W. William Kappaz Residence	Third floor addition on rear - permit
STATUS: On HOLD for Old Georgetown Board meeting 8 May 1997 for further review at the written request of applicant.		
O.G. 97-51 HPA. 97-129	3307 Q Street, N.W. Mr. and Mrs. Krasnow Residence	Rear addition - permit
STATUS: On HOLD for Old Georgetown Board meeting 8 May 1997 for further discussion with applicant.		
O.G. 97-54 HPA. 97-140	3067 Canal Towpath, N.W. Cahen and Coppock The Fourth Lock	Projecting sign and window replacement - permit
STATUS: On HOLD for Old Georgetown Board meeting 8 May 1997 for further review at the written request of applicant.		
O.G. 97-59 HPA. 97-145	3141 P Street, N.W. Noel Evans Residence	Rear one story addition - conceptual
STATUS: On HOLD for Old Georgetown Board meeting 8 May 1997 for further discussion with applicant.		

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MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

17 April 1997

The meeting was convened at 10:03 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices in the Pension Building, 441 F Street, N.W.

Members present: Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
Hon. Harry G. Robinson, III, Vice-Chairman
Hon. Carolyn Brody
Hon. Eden Rafshoon

Staff present: Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
Mrs. Sue Kohler
Mr. José Martínez-Canino

National Capital
Planning Commission
staff present: Ms. Margot Stephenson

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of the minutes of the 20 March meeting. The minutes were approved without objection.

B. Dates of next meetings, approved as:

22 May 1997
19 June 1997

C. Retirement of Assistant Secretary. The Secretary announced the retirement, at the end of the month, of Assistant Secretary Donald B. Myer, who had served in that capacity from 1965-68 and from 1970 to the present. He presented Mr. Myer with a copy of a coat-of-arms of the Senate Park Commission, a drawing done tongue-in-cheek by a draftsman in architect Charles McKim's office during the last hectic days of preparation for the opening of the exhibition of the plans for Washington in January 1902. Mr. Myer, in turn, presented the Commission with a brick from the demolished Rhodes Tavern, one of the oldest buildings in Washington.

Mr. Atherton said there would be other occasions to honor Mr. Myer, and he would keep the members informed.

The Vice-Chairman said he would like to make a brief statement at this time and say that the Commission appreciated Mr. Myer's services, and that he was leaving with the members' great respect and admiration.

The Chairman recalled that he had worked with Mr. Myer as long as he had been on the Commission, since 1971, and he was sad to see him leave. He said the Commission had relied on his even-handedness and his ability to analyze and determine the true issues, and depended on his liaison with the Georgetown Board. He wished him well with his plans for the future.

Mr. Myer thanked the members for their good wishes.

The agenda order was changed, and the Appendices reviewed before the first submission was presented.

II.E.1. Shipstead-Luce Act, Appendix I. The Appendix was approved without objection.

II.E.2.b. Old Georgetown Act, Appendix II. The appendix was approved without objection.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. Washington Convention Center Authority

CFA 17/APR/97-1, New convention center. Mount Vernon Square between 7th and 9th streets and Mount Vernon Square Place and N Street. Development of site plan, massing and elevation studies. (Previous: CFA 20/MAR/97-1.) Staff member Jeffrey Carson introduced Allen Lew, Managing Director for Development at the Washington Convention Center Authority. Mr. Lew introduced members of his team and said they would update the Commission on progress made in developing the design, respond to issues that had been raised, and answer questions. He asked architect Marshall Purnell, of Devroux & Purnell, to begin the presentation.

Mr. Purnell said that since the Commission had last seen the project, there had been revisions to the plan and to the elevations, and although everything was still in a very fluid state, they hoped to get preliminary approval of a concept design from the Planning Commission early in May and from this Commission later in the month. Mr. Purnell reviewed the plan briefly, pointing out that most of the exhibit space would be located below grade, meeting space and other exhibit space

would be at sidewalk level, kitchen space and ballroom at the top, main entrance and drop-off at Mount Vernon Square, with bus and taxi drop-off on L Street, and the service entrance on M Street. He said the basic organization of the space had not changed, but there had been changes in the southernmost section of the building.

Mr. Purnell said what they were trying to accomplish as they developed the design was to minimize and reduce the scale of the Center in relation to the buildings around it. He noted the high-rise buildings to the south--particularly Techworld at 130 feet--and the residential buildings to the north with a maximum height of about 40 feet. The Chairman asked if he knew the height of the Mount Vernon Square library building; he said it was 35 feet to the cornice, and he thought about 15-20 feet to the roof ridge. He continued by observing that the typical townhouse grid in the area was 30 feet, and as the Convention Center would be constructed on a 90-foot grid, this made it easy to set up a 30-foot sub-grid along 7th, 9th and N streets to break down the scale; he noted also that the change in grade would allow the building to become considerably lower as it moved north. Mr. Purnell said they had yet to develop the fenestration, but the recession and/or projection of the windows and the patterns of light and shadow produced would help to provide depth and break down the scale of the long walls. In regard to the height at the south end, he said the ballroom vault would not be visible at close range; the building would appear to end at the cornice line. Lastly, he noted that in deference to the community and their use of the Metro station, M Street would be kept open to pedestrian and even local vehicular traffic, although it would be covered, for the most part. Mr. Purnell then asked Thomas Ventulett, from Thompson, Ventulett, Stainback & Associates, to discuss the south facade.

Mr. Ventulett said it was apparent from the beginning that Mount Vernon Square was the key to the entire area, that it was the front door of the new building, and that the library was the jewel that sat in the center. He said every idea they had considered had been with the thought of acknowledging the library and the square, and he certainly hoped he had acknowledged the L'Enfant plan. He said he wanted the design to embrace, not threaten, the library, and to have a feeling of permanence and at the same time be transparent and inviting. He described the problems of making a facade 500-feet long and 100-feet high acknowledge a 35-foot high library, talking about ways to reduce the apparent size through articulation and the use of transparent glass. He spoke also about the L'Enfant plan, about the symmetry along the 8th Street line, and the further acknowledgment of the plan by providing views along the diagonal avenues from the transparent corners of the south facade. Mr. Ventulett called

attention to a terrace outside the ballroom at the 80-foot level with a canopy above, at 110 feet. The Chairman thought the canopy just emphasized the height and was not really needed. Mr. Purnell commented that it was seen as a unifying element that pulled the two masses of the facade together. Vice-Chairman Robinson suggested that partial elevations with matching sections would help when the next presentation was made.

Mr. Ventulett then touched briefly on the proposed materials, saying that no firm decisions had been made. He noted the white marble of the library and the red brick of the surrounding residential development and said the materials for the convention center would be compatible with these but not the same; he said they were thinking of limestone, clear glass, and some brick--not a deep red--to give a human feeling and to break down the scale of the building. He added that there would also be landscaping, along L Street and the streets around the building, as well as on Mount Vernon Square.

There was a discussion about the corners of the south facade and how they had been pulled back in plan in deference to the library; the Chairman was not convinced that had helped, since it gave a convex feeling to the rest of the facade, and concave would be better. The effects of the transparent facade were then discussed-- its reflectivity at some times and not at others, and the views inside and whether they would help or hinder the relationship with the library. He felt the long overhanging roof was too overpowering.

Mr. Carson noted that a member of the audience wanted to speak. Graham Davidson was then introduced, and he said he was speaking for the D. C. Preservation League, the D. C. Chapter of the AIA, the American Planning Association, and the Committee of 100. He recalled that he had spoken the preceding month during the presentation of the massing study and said that the comments he made at that time still stood, especially those regarding truck access and the efforts to keep M Street open to the sky as much as possible. He said he hoped the convention center would become a part of the city and would engage the city and its activities in many ways other than just providing space for conventions. He thought the massing was beginning to be broken down and that it worked well generally with the neighborhood around it, especially in the way it diminished in scale and height as it went back into the residential area. He suggested more breaks in the long horizontal line, perhaps some breaks in the cornice line, and even houses abutting the building and facing the adjoining communities.

In regard to the Mount Vernon Square facade, he said he agreed with the comments made and was not sure whether the corner treatment was right; he thought the entrance needed to be expressed more, as did 8th Street. He said he was encouraged by what he had seen so far, but warned that as the details would be turned over to a design-build firm later, it would be very important to keep involved and make sure the recommendations made in the design stage were followed.

The Chairman asked for comments by the members. Vice Chairman Robinson said he was not convinced that the emphasis on the cornice line at the top of the building was a bad thing; he thought it might be the best way to celebrate the culmination of the building on Mount Vernon Square and act as a frame for the library. He urged that the architects continue to explore ways to emphasize the cornice.

Mrs. Rafshoon asked Mr. Ventulett if he had considered pushing the center part of the south facade back farther to increase the concave effect he was talking about. He said they had looked into that, but didn't think it solved the problem; he thought that landscaping the space between the library and the new building so that it became a sort of outdoor room would be the most effective way to build a relationship between the two. The Chairman thought Mrs. Rafshoon had a point, however; he felt that recessing the center bays even slightly would give the library more breathing room. He also commented on the north-south views of the building, especially from the south up 8th Street. He thought some sightline studies might be helpful in determining how much of the building would be seen from different vantage points.

Mr. Brown had one other comment; it concerned the curved roof over the ballroom at the south end of the building. He said he did not mind the other curved roofs to the north, because they were set far back from the edge, but he thought the ballroom roof would be quite visible. He said his objection to the form was that it was one usually associated with railroad stations, arenas, and inflatable buildings, and its sloping form was more depressing than uplifting; he said there were other curved shapes that might have just the opposite effect, such as the one at the new IMF building. Mr. Ventulett thought the sloping shape helped to bring the scale down on the interior, but the Chairman said that could be done in other ways, perhaps by using a series of domes.

There were no other comments, and the architects were encouraged to continue with the development of the design.
Exhibit A

B. National Park Service, National Capital Region

CFA 17/APR/97-2, The Mall, between 3rd and 14th streets, and Jefferson Place and Madison Place. Design for resurfacing the walks. Design development. (Previous: CFA 25/JUL/96-2) Mr. Carson recalled that the Commission had seen three versions of the resurfacing in July 1996. All involved using a combination of the existing gravel walks and aggregate finished concrete paving to facilitate their use by those in wheelchairs; the Commission had preferred the one marked Scheme B (referred to in the previous presentation as Alternative 2) but requested further study of the conditions where the two different paths crossed--should there be a change in color or a third material? Mr. Carson recalled that the idea of using gravel paths went back to the mid-1960s and the plan for the Mall developed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; at that time the Commission approved the removal of two east-west roads traversing the Mall and their replacement by walks. The decision was made to pave the walks in gravel, as seen frequently in Europe, but in the haste to get them completed for the Bicentennial, they may have been inadequately installed, leaving their long-term durability in question. Mr. Carson then introduced John Parsons from the Park Service.

Mr. Parsons showed a sample of a crushed granite exposed aggregate block, one that had been used in another park. It was much more grey in tone than either the present gravel or the proposed concrete aggregate paving. There was a consensus that it was not appropriate, and Mr. Parsons agreed. The Chairman said he thought the solution was just to keep the gravel walks going straight through in the east-west direction, so they would be dominant along the main axis; the amount of gravel that would have to be traversed by those in wheelchairs would not be significant.

Mr. Brown said he was reminded of the material selected by landscape architect Laurie Olin for the secondary paths in the National Gallery Sculpture Garden; it was a stabilized gravel that had been used before in other parks with excellent results. Mr. Parsons said he had looked into it, and in fact was planning to use it around the pool at the Korean War Memorial this summer, as the cobblestones were being removed temporarily to solve a drainage problem; this period of use would help determine its effectiveness as far as wheelchair users were concerned.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Parsons for his efforts; the crushed granite aggregate sample was then unanimously disapproved. Exhibit B

C. Smithsonian Institution

CFA 17/APR/97-3, National Museum of American Art and National Portrait Gallery (Old Patent Office Building), between F and G streets, and 7th and 9th streets, N.W. Repair of north sidewalks and vehicle ramp, installation of gates. Design. Staff member José Martínez introduced this submission. He said that as part of the general renovation of the building, the Smithsonian was requesting approval of a gate closing off the vehicular entrance at 7th and G streets, and to make the pedestrian entrance at 9th and G streets, used primarily by employees, wheelchair accessible by removing the several existing steps and using a ramp instead. The purpose of the gate was to keep people from using the loading dock area for parking.

Mr. Martínez showed photographs and drawings, and Harry Rombach from the Smithsonian answered questions about the ramp. There were no objections to the plans, and they were unanimously approved. Exhibit C

D. Department of the Navy, Chesapeake Division

CFA 17/APR/97-4, Naval Station, Bolling/Anacostia Tract. Complex for Public Works Shops and Logistics Support. Conceptual. Mr. Martínez said this complex would include both an office structure and warehouses, with room for future expansion; he said it was in an area reserved for support services on the master plan and was sited near the helicopter hangar and landing pad. He showed an architect's rendering of the buildings and said photographs of the site were available, and there was also a landscape plan which included berms that would hide part of the complex from view. Larry Earle from the Navy was then introduced.

Mr. Earle first noted that this would be a design-build project and then introduced architect Frank Sturgeon from Parsons Brinckerhoff, who would be designing the buildings to the Navy's specifications and would build them as well. Mr. Earle said the purpose of this complex was to get support functions out of the Navy Yard, as they were located where the Naval Sea Systems Command complex would be built. He noted that the Anacostia station had a general support relationship with the Navy Yard, and he mentioned also that the landscape architecture firm of EDAW had been hired to do a new master plan update for both locations and would take into account the changes taking place in the Yard and the need to link the functions of the two sites.

Mr. Sturgeon then discussed the proposed buildings. He noted on the rendering that the lower portion would be red, split-faced brick block with a cream-colored metal siding

above; the roofs would also be metal, with a very low pitch. In answer to the Vice-Chairman's question, he said that the buildings were pre-engineered, that is, the structure was pre-engineered but the exterior was not. Mr. Sturgeon said that NCPC had requested that the proportion of the brick and metal siding be changed, by lowering the brick section; the Vice-Chairman said he would have preferred to go the other way, to make the metal siding as unobtrusive as possible.

The Chairman asked Mr. Sturgeon if he could add at least a few windows to the warehouse buildings; he thought that as long as people had to work in them, they deserved to have a little daylight; the windows would also help to break down the scale. Mrs. Brody agreed with this comment. Mr. Brown also thought that the more landscaping that could be added, the better. Beyond that, he said the Commission would not get too involved with the design as it was an industrial project that would not have much effect on the nation's capital. Mr. Sturgeon said NCPC had asked for the berm to screen the truck maintenance and loading dock area, and he noted a picnic area that would also be screened.

There were no more questions or comments, and with the preceding recommendations, the project was then unanimously approved. Exhibit D

E. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

Appendix I. Approved under the Administration section of the meeting.

2. Old Georgetown Act

1. O.G. 97-58, 3245 O Street, N.W. Design for new residence. Conceptual. The Assistant Secretary recalled the January decision of the Commission to support the Old Georgetown Board and recommend against demolition of the small house on this site. He noted that it was built c. 1812, making it one of the oldest residential buildings in Georgetown, and he said its modest scale, deep setback, and rare gable front made it a highly contributing element to the historic district. Mr. Myer added that it had been determined that sufficient original fabric and sound structure remained to accomplish a renovation which might include a modest, sympathetic rear addition. He recalled the testimony by the owner, the neighbors, and others, with arguments both for and against demolition, and said the owner had now retained an architect and was submitting a design for a replacement structure. For the record he noted that the design had been

seen by the Georgetown Board and was recommended against as being excessive in scale and lot coverage and inappropriate to the character of the historic district. The Board had indicated that they would be willing to entertain a design that retained a portion of the existing structure with an appropriate addition to it.

The Vice-Chairman questioned whether it was appropriate to hear testimony on a replacement structure when the Commission had stated clearly that the existing building should not be torn down; he wondered if from a legal standpoint it might be construed as giving tacit approval to the demolition. The Chairman did not think reviewing the design would be a problem. He said the District was asking the Commission's advice, and the Commission was really obligated to give it; he noted also that the historic preservation community often asked what would replace a historic structure to be sure something of quality would be put on the site, if it turned out there were no alternatives to demolition. He said the Commission had often been successful in preserving the historic fabric visible from public space and at the same time allowing new construction where it was not visible.

The Assistant Secretary then introduced the architect, George Stavropoulos. Mr. Stavropoulos said his first response to the project was that the historic structure should be preserved, but after visiting the site twice with the District's chief inspector and chief engineer, he saw evidence that it might have to be demolished and agreed to design a new residence. He said he had tried to incorporate elements and materials from the various periods and styles of Georgetown architecture; the program was given to him by the owner. He acknowledged that the house was higher than the adjacent buildings but not higher than some in the neighborhood. He said he had not put windows in the side facing the school yard because of the possibility of future construction on that site. In response to the Chairman's question, he said the house was designed as a single-family dwelling; he did not know the number of square feet it would contain.

Several people asked to comment; the first was ANC Commissioner James Fogarty. He again urged the Commission to reject plans for demolition and said he would like to see this matter referred to the Corporation Counsel. He thought a dangerous precedent would be set if this house were demolished and replaced by something not in keeping with the historic district.

The next speaker was Eve Barsoum from the staff of the District's Historic Preservation Review Board. She recalled that she had appeared at the January meeting in opposition to

the demolition. She said that since that time a hearing on the case had been scheduled by the Mayor's Agent for 28 May, and she had been advised that the staff should defer opinions until that case had been resolved. She said the HPRB had not heard the case and had not been asked to by the ANC. Mrs. Brody asked her what would influence the Mayor's Agent in coming to a decision, and she said the Agent would have all the documents in the case--the Old Georgetown Board and Commission of Fine Arts recommendations, the neighbors' reports, the professional consultants' reports, etc.--and would make the decision based on this evidence.

Ruth France from the Citizens' Association of Georgetown, was the next speaker. She said she just wanted to reaffirm CAG's previous position that the house should be saved.

Richard Nettler, an attorney representing the adjacent property owners, spoke next. He prefaced his remarks by saying that the Mayor's Agent was permitted to consider conceptual designs in a demolition case only when a project of special merit was being proposed; he said there was no claim by the owner that the proposed replacement house was a project of special merit. He said the demolition case had to be considered solely in the context of whether it was consistent with the purposes of the Old Georgetown Act. He noted also that the court had mandated that the opinions of the Commission of Fine Arts were entitled to the same deference as those of the Historic Preservation Review Board. Mr. Nettler said he had previously worked eight years in the Corporation Counsel's office on historic preservation cases. In regard to this case, he said he and his clients wholeheartedly supported the Georgetown Board's position on the replacement house, finding it too large and totally out of character for Georgetown. He asked the Commission to reject the concept design.

The Chairman asked for other testimony or comments, and when there were none, he asked for a motion. The Vice-Chairman moved that the Commission support the Georgetown Board's recommendation against the new construction, and the motion was carried unanimously. Exhibit E

b. Appendix II. Approved under the Administration section of the meeting.

There was no further business, except that the Vice-Chairman commented that he had been driving through the Walter Reed campus recently and wanted to inform the members that the recently-approved guest house had been constructed, and he was

17 April 1997

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very pleased with the way the landscaping looked. The members were happy to hear his report.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles H. Atherton", with a stylized, cursive script.

Charles H. Atherton,
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001-2728

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

21 April 1997

EXHIBIT A

Dear Mr. Lew:

The Commission was pleased to meet with you and your consultants to discuss on-going studies for the proposed Convention Center north of Mount Vernon Square. Given its vast scale, opportunity to address each issue as it develops is essential to the success of the project. In this light, we appreciated having a look at the refinements to the massing and, more especially, the initial elevation studies which appear to be extremely thoughtful.

The Commission continues to focus on the south entrance elevation and the essential dialogue that must be developed between that portion of the building and the Mount Vernon Square library. Obviously, the potentials are understood by everyone concerned. However, functional and aesthetic opportunities could be missed if we fail to address specific aspects of the library site now.

Once the Center is built a major flow of pedestrian traffic will develop across the site to the Gallery Place Metro, the MCI Arena, and downtown Washington. The grounds of the library require a suitable civic design accommodating terraces, walks and a planting scheme commensurate with what will become one of the most important urban destinations in the city. We feel strongly that the library and its setting are part and parcel of the Convention Center -- a visual unit which may even cross the street with special cross-walk or paving, or even be expressed in a recess in the facade, to reinforce the Center's entrance and the 8th Street axis.

This brings us to the question of the south entrance elevation. This is a work in progress that needs to address a truly complex set of issues. The facade complements a series of interior volumes, creating a

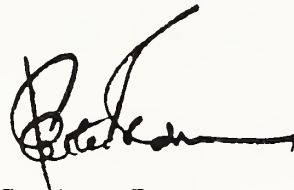
Page 2
Mr. Lew

layering effect of solids and voids, masonry and glass in spatial geometries that should be quite exciting. However, it has not yet met the difficult challenge of providing a significant dialogue with the library. It has yet to address convincingly the 8th Street axis or the idea of entrance, in the day as well as at night.

Our hope for design elegance and excitement applies as well to the ballroom roof, currently indicated as a low-slung vault of enormous size and, we find, little distinction. Here is the opportunity for a "signature" for the building, even if it ended up gabled, on the analogy of the National Building Museum nearby.

The Commission looks forward to a continued dialogue with you and your consultants and offers the services of the staff should any questions develop.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Carter Brown', with a stylized, flowing script.

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Allen Y. Lew
Managing Director/Development
Washington Convention Center
900 Ninth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

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23 April 1997

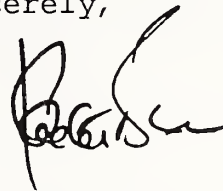
EXHIBIT B

Dear Mr. Goldstein:

The Commission was pleased to see you and John Parsons during the meeting of 17 April 1997 at which time we discussed further development of the concept to resurface the Mall walks. Clearly, adding a contrasting material to the walkway intersections is not the way to go. The idea surfaced last July in an attempt to find a compromise solution that might bridge over the interruption of the east-west axis created by the introduction of the proposed concrete surfaces. The compromise failed. It simply underscored the need to maintain uninterrupted the primary axis. The primary east-west gravel walks must be continuous if we are to maintain the aesthetic integrity of the Mall.

The staff is available should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Carter Brown', with a stylized flourish at the end.

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Arnold Goldstein, Superintendent
National Park Service
National Capital Parks - Central
900 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024-2000

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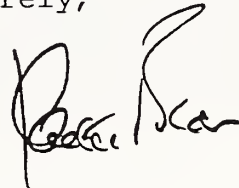
23 April 1997

EXHIBIT C

Dear Mr. Rombach:

The Commission reviewed and approved the alterations to the Museum of American Art portion of the Old Patent Office Building during its meeting 17 April 1997. Both the new gates for the east driveway entrance and the alterations to the sidewalk to facilitate handicapped access take advantage of the existing building vocabulary and provide a welcome continuity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Carter Brown", with a stylized flourish at the end.

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Harry Rombach, R.A.
Assistant Director of Facilities Planning
Smithsonian Institution
Facilities Planning - Office of Physical Plant
955 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W. Suite 3230
Washington, D.C. 20024

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23 April 1997

EXHIBIT D

Dear Mr. Earle:

During its meeting 17 April 1997, the Commission reviewed and approved the concept for the new Logistic and Public Works Shop complex at the Naval Station Anacostia. While the proposed earth berms and additional landscaping material will help to screen the new structure from view of the more public areas of the base, increasing the planted area would be even more helpful, specially along the main thoroughfare of Defense Boulevard.

With respect to the buildings themselves, the following suggestions were made: first, instead of limiting the use of brick to an arbitrary line near the base of the warehouse structure, the amount of brick coverage should be increased, giving the building a more substantial appearance. Second, we suggest focusing on the introduction of windows, perhaps a clerestory, which would "humanize" the workspace and add a bit more interest to the facade.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Carter Brown', with a stylized flourish at the end.

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Lawrence P. Earle
Department of the Navy
Engineering Field Activity Chesapeake
Washington Navy Yard Building 212
901 M Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20374-5018

17 April 1997

AGENDA ITEM EXHIBIT

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 97-58	3245 O Street, N.W.	New building
HPA. 97-144	Melakah Roberts Residence	- conceptual

ACTION: Recommend **AGAINST** the concept of the proposed structure as excessive in scale and lot coverage and inappropriate to the character of the historic district.
